

COMMENT
PROCEEDING 03-104

I oppose the implementation of Power Line Communications (PLC) or Broadband Over Power Line (BPL). As a licensed user of HF spectrum, I have been affected by power line RFI as well as interference from Part 15 devices. Amateur Radio licensees have sought help from their electrical utility companies and the FCC; in many cases these problems remain unresolved.

Part 15 devices interfered with seven area licensees including myself. It took me and the diligence of a radio club two years to eliminate the RFI. The firm that supplied these devices to their customers had no record of where they had been installed. Employees left the company or were reassigned and the firm was sold during this process.

PLC/BPL tests have been conducted in Japan, the Netherlands, England, Germany, Finland, Poland, the US and more. These tests demonstrate PLC/BPL is harmful to HF communications. As these systems wear, the interference will likely increase. It will be impossible for these firms and the FCC to address the many problems generated by this technology.

I have used the HF spectrum to pass health/welfare traffic. I am undergoing training in the National Traffic System (NTS). Earlier this month, myself and two other licensees setup a portable amateur radio station in an adjoining state. We used a gasoline generator for power, portable antennas, computers, training and experience. We introduced amateur radio to elected officials and the local police department. In a 24-hour period we exchanged simulated emergency traffic with over 800 radio amateurs in North America. This was part of an emergency preparedness exercise called Field Day — an event practiced by thousands of volunteers each year. We train, so we are ready when called upon.

Public agencies and citizens rely on amateur radio communications during emergencies. The FCC issues notices declaring communications emergencies. These notices allocate certain frequencies for emergency use only. PLC/BPL will adversely affect these volunteers' ability to pass traffic. Amateur Radio licensees invest their time and money to serve others and ask for nothing in return. PLC/BPL will severely hinder their ability to train, serve EMA agencies and their neighbors when all other means of communication are down.

PLC/BPL systems radiate on wide swaths of spectrum and occupy entire neighborhoods. Do not allow the good work from volunteer amateur radio licensees and other users of the HF spectrum to be adversely affected by this technology.

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